ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

President's Newsletter

Number 66. April, 1995.

CONVENTION TIME IS HERE!

The magic dates are May 4 to 7, and although this Newsletter is going into the mail on April 10, we're not quite sure -- the vagaries of the post office being what they are -- when you'll receive it. Most likely it will be while the convention is underway (or, at best, several days before), and if you're not able to be with us in Hershey, we can only offer our regrets and hope that you'll be with us next year. And when this July rolls around, we'll give you a report of the good times enjoyed by our convention-goers, and accompany it with a convention program to serve as both a chronicle of the goings-on and a souvenir for your scrapbook. Meanwhile, as of this writing, it looks as if the turnout for Chocolate Land will exceed all past attendance figures (but probably only until next year, when we move on to a most glamorous destination).

A GIFT FROM FAIRBANKS.

This mailing includes a special giveaway that comes to us through the generosity of member F.A. "Bill" Norden of Kansas City, MO. Bill is president and CEO of Fairbanks Scales, and when his company printed its 1995 calendar, titled, "A Tribute to Antique Scales," Bill's first thought was ISASC and resulted in his giving us 300 of the calendars for our membership.

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And, to make the gift even sweeter, he also sent us a $250 check to cover our additional postage costs. The calendar, as you'll note, illustrates some of the best known Fairbanks scales from times long since past, along with a descriptive caption for each, including its original pricing. It may be that you'll see fit to put it to calendar use for the balance (pun) of this year, but our one man's opinion is that it's too nice to be hung up and scribbled on, and deserves a place on a metrology library shelf or in a scrapbook. And in our collective behalf, I know each of you joins me in thanking Bill Norden for his special gift.

AND SPEAKING OF GIFTS...

We're excited as can be about member Dave Colker's bequest to ISASC of his entire scale collection, numbering about 75 scales. As Dave told us, he's getting along in years, has several collecting hobbies, and intends to do a lot of traveling, with the sum of these factors impelling him to donate his scale collection to a worthy beneficiary, namely ISASC, to do with as we see fit. We, in turn, concluded that the best way to dispose of them would be at our Silent Auction in May at Hershey, and that's what we're doing.

We hope the proceeds will be substantial enough to enable ISASC to start an endowment fund, and subsequently, as the recipient of other similar bequests, will generate fund growth to where its earnings, in time, will allow us to defray part, if not all, of ISASC operating costs or capital projects. In a phrase, we're deeply indebted to Dave and hope that his largess will be emulated by other members who, sooner or later, may be looking for an answer to the question of what to do with their own collections.

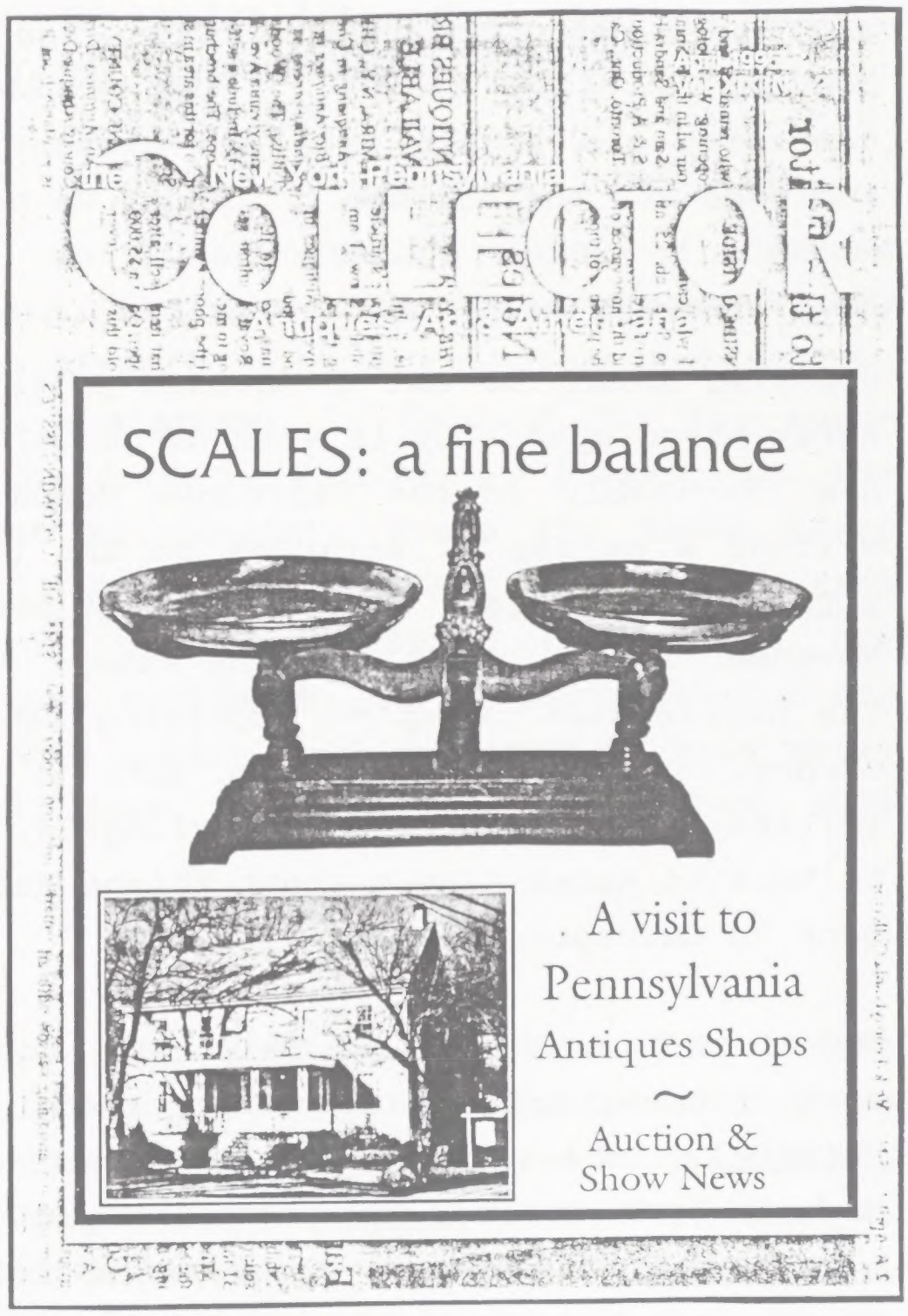
BIG NEWS ABOUT ISASC'S BIBLIOGRAPHY.

After several years of arduous work by Judy and Eric Soslau, we can report with certainty that the final version of the first edition of ISASC's all-new, all-about-scales bibliography is completed and will be presented at the Hershey convention. After the "unveiling," we'll turn our attention to printing this valuable reference and making it

available to members. As time goes on, we'll find reason to expand and update the first edition (that's the way it goes with bibliographies), but for the present, we're proud as can be of this "first" in the field of metrology, and we can't be too complimentary about the exceptional effort made by the Soslaus to make it all happen. We're truly in their debt and we want them to know it.

PUBLICITY AGAIN SERVES OUR CAUSE.

A few weeks ago, the features editor of the New York-Pennsylvania Collector magazine asked us to proofread and, where feasible, modify an impending article on scales written by collector Ruth Stahl of New York state. This we did, and the article appeared, as shown on this cover reproduction, in the April issue. The best part, however, was that in return for our assistance, the editor ran a detailed article on ISASC itself and its upcoming Hershey convention. A nice bonus for us, of the sort that invariably results in more new members.



MEANWHILE, OVER THE AIRWAVES.

In early March, we received an invitation from radio talk show host Bruce Gordon of WJON in St. Cloud, Minnesota, to be interviewed about -- you guessed it -- scales, scale-collecting and ISASC. It seems that Bruce had his interest piqued when he read about us in Anita Gold's syndicated newspaper column on antiques, and the minute the invitation was extended, we accepted, sent Bruce some background material, and a week later did 10 minutes of radio talk about scales and ISASC and scale-collectors (and ISASC), and scale collector conventions (and ISASC). Just after we went off the air, Bruce concluded his thanks with the comment, "Yes, Bob, I do believe our audience got the message." (As if we had any doubts.)

FOR FAIRBANKS AFICIONADOS...

Sometime back, we met a Chicago philatelist by the name of Richard Marek whose specialty is Vermont postal history. This, of course, led him inevitably to the Fairbanks Company which, in turn, led to his writing a series of articles on the history of the company for the Vermont Philatelist. The three-part series appeared in the August and November issues, 1993, and the August issue, 1994, and it may be that the publication is up to providing reprints of the series. On that chance, you might write to Ruth M. Henson, Editor, The Vermont Philatelist, 102 Adams St., Burlington, VT 05401. Also, if you'd like to talk to Marek direct about things Fairbanks, call him at the Harris Bank in Chicago: 312/461-5164.

And on that same subject, Fairbanks, that is, Marek provided us with a most interesting article from the June, 1994, issue of Japanese Philately, which contained a letter dated March 20, 1876, from H. Mayesima, Postmaster-General of Japan and founder of Japan's postal system, to the "Messrs Fairbanks & Co." in New York, extolling the merits of the Fairbanks Standard Scales adopted by the Japanese government as of the first of January, 1875. Besides the letter, the five-page article also related some anecdotal postal history of Fairbanks and its activities in Japan. If you're a Fairbanks-phile and would like a copy of the article, write me and I'll send it on post haste.

MARKETPLACE.

Sometime back we told our members about 15 Henry Troemner apothecary scales for sale. Even though a number of our members showed interest and contacted the owner, nothing came of it, for reasons we're not sure of. Now, the owner has contacted us again, told us that the scales are still available ("complete, in mint condition, and working properly"), that a detailed listing, along with photographs and prices, can be provided, and any serious offer for each scale or for the entire lot will be considered. If you're interested, contact Richard Okleshen, 2820 Cebu Court, Carlsbad, CA 92009; phone 619/438-5150.

OVERSEAS UPDATE.

During our Hershey convention, we'll be hosting a number of overseas collectors from England, Holland, and Australia, so we think it only fair to suggest that if you're planning a trip to Europe this coming autumn, bu all means include a stopover in England for the Euro-Chapter's Fall convention. The date is October 15 (1995), and the site is Birmingham (convenient to London), where the famed Avery (Scales) Historical Museum will bask in the ISASC spotlight. From what we hear at every turn, the Euro-Chapter conventions are exceptionally engrossing <u>and</u> most enjoyable, so if you're headed for England and/or the Continent this coming fall and want to know more, write Ron Wilkinson, 28 Foxhill Road, Burton Joyce, Nottingham, NG14 50B, England.

STATISTICAL STIMULI.

To those members who from time to time complain that there just aren't any scales out there anymore, we've got some news for you. When we sent out our directory update form last December, we received a stack back, most of which listed the member's <u>current</u> number of scales. While we were revising the listings, we were struck by the <u>substantial</u> increase the numbers disclosed. Here are some examples that simply but most emphatically cite the increase from the previous count to the present count for a number of members. We think the figures speak convincingly for themselves and put to rest the contention that "there just aren't any scales out there anymore."

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PREVIOUS COUNT		PRESENT COUNT	PREVIOUS COUNT		PRESENT COUNT
0 (beginner)	to	35	6	to	65
18	to	100	35	to	80
33	to	73	80	to	280
40	to	150	18	to	50
12	to	40	20	to	80
19	to	40	140	to	250

VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORTS.

** Joe Lenorovitz (Convention Planning) reports that his questionnaire mailing drew a resounding response, replete with many positive and provocative comments and suggestions. Joe thanks everyone who gave of their time and thoughts, and tells us he'll be ready to present a summary of his findings at our Hershey conclave and subsequently to the membership-at-large. The results promise to be a giant step forward in our convention planning and programming.

** Dale Goldman (Publications Development) reports that she's still receiving and sorting out catalog offers from a number of members. She tells us that as soon as this preliminary planning step is completed, she'll be ready (most likely by July) to combine several catalogs and produce her first ISASC publication, for sale to our members and as an addition to our library.

** Ruth Willard (EQM Associate Editor) reports that several member-generated articles having to do with American scales are in the works, and before the end of the year one or more should see the light of print and appear in EQM.

WITH MUCH SORROW...

and an acute sense of loss, we're obliged to advise our membership of the passing of Ben Shayman, a long-standing and dedicated member of ISASC. Ben and Chernie, his wife of many years, regularly attended our conventions, and over a long period of time made many friends within our ranks. Ben was a fine man, and will be sorely missed.

THREE EDIFYING ENCLOSURES:

(1) Our 1995 North American Chapter Membership Directory. It boasts of a new second title page, listing our chapter officers and their respective functions, and also a record listing of more than 300 members. Check your own listing to make sure it's right (let us know if not), give the contents a brief perusal to remind yourself what a helpmate it can be, and then insert it in your window binder in place of the '94 one.

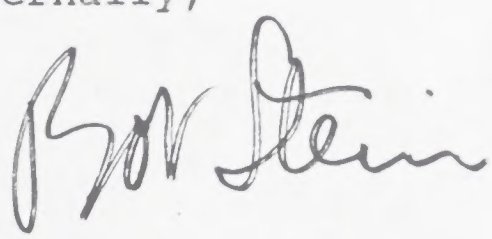
(2) Our 1994 annual financial statement. Again, provided to us on a timely basis by Jan Macho, our hardworking treasurer to whom we tender our thanks. You may recall that our 1993 statement showed our membership equity as approximately $23,000 which, by the end of 1994, rose to $24,000. As is quite evident, our financial condition is rock-solid and looks to stay that way.

(3) Our 1995 Benefactor's List. Again this year, a good number of members, on a voluntary basis, contributed to our Benefactor Program so that we can safely predict that in 1995 we will operate in the black and at the same time maintain our high quality standards. For this year, 79 of our members gave close to $10,000, and to each of them we express our deep thanks.

TIME TO CLOSE.

At the moment, we've reported on all the news that's recently come our way, but do turn the page to see a couple of festive postcards that feature scales (but of course).

Fraternally,



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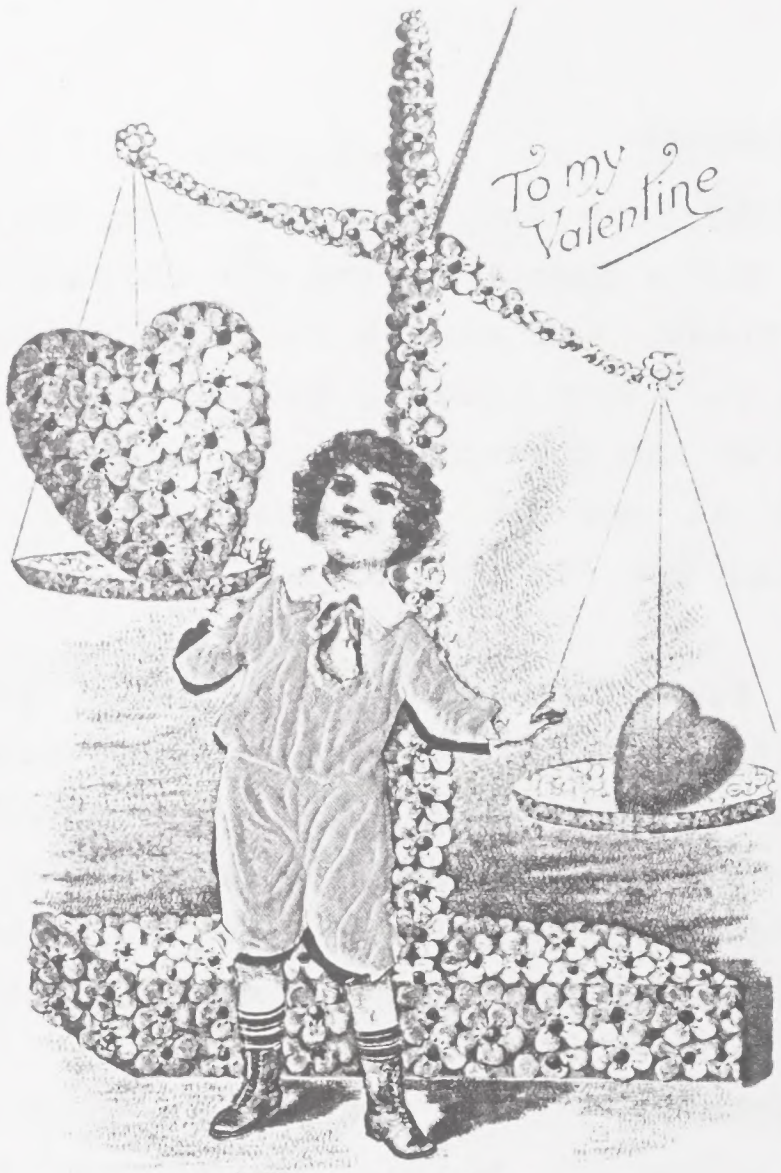
To my Valentine

Wishing you a Happy New Year
JAN 1
DEC-31
Just Arrived
Bag and Baggage